

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USIA FOR ICS/E, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OESC, UR
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE-USA EXHIBIT

REF: (A) USIA 0026, (B) '77 MOSCOW 17418, (C) '77 MOSCOW 17461

1. AS AGENCY AWARE, SOLNTSEV WAS IN U.S. FIRST HALF OF DECEMBER.
UPON HIS RETURN WE TRIED TO SEE HIM BUT WERE PUT OFF UNTIL AFTER
THE HOLIDAYS WHILE HE ALLEGEDLY BROUGHT HIMSELF UP TO DATE ON
STATE OF PLAY ON SOVIET SIDE RE SUBJECT EXHIBIT.

2. THIS TIME AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GET
AHOLD OF HIM, WE FINALLY MADE CONTACT AND HAVE ARRANGED FOR
BENSON, HARROD AND SMITH TO GO SEE HIM ON MORNING OF JANUARY
10. FYI, SOLNTSEV INFORMS THAT GOTSOULIAK, WHO HAS BEEN OUT
OF COUNTRY OF PAST TWO MONTHS, IS BACK IN TOWN. WE ASSUME SHID
WILL TAKE PART IN JANUARY 10 SESSION.

3. COMMENT: IN PAST COUPLE OF PHONE CONVERSATIONS, BOTH
BEFORE AND AFTER HOLIDAYS, SOLNTSEV HAS BEEN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY
EVASIVE AND UNFORTHCOMING. WE GET DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT
CHAMBER HAS BEEN PUT ON "HOLD" BY POLICY-MAKING SOVIET
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BODIES. WHEN WE TOLD SOLNTSEV IN LATEST PHONE CONVERSATION THAT
KARYAGIN OF MFA CULTURAL DIVISION HAD EXPLICITLY INFORMED
BENSON THERE WERE "NO OBSTACLES" TO MOVING ON WITH
"AGRICULTURE-USA" NEGOTIATIONS (REF B), SOLNTSEV SEEMED
PARTICULARLY INTERESTED (ALTHOUGH HE HAS HEARD SAME BEFORE--
REF C) AND WE ASSUME HE IS USING INTERVAL PRIOR TO JANUARY 10
TO GET HIS DUCKS IN A ROW. IN ANY EVENT, WE CERTAINLY WILL

RAISE WITH HIM NUMBER OF POINTS WHICH MUST BE EXPEDITED
IMMEDIATELY IF NOT SOONER, I.E. ROSTOV SITE SURVEY, TIMING
OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, ORDER OF CITIES, ETC. WILL GIVE
AGENCY FULL READ-OUT AS SOON AS WE HAR WHAT CHAMBER HAS TO
SAY.

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